

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
VALLE DE ORO COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
P.O. BOX 936
LA MESA, CA 91944-0936

Minutes of the Meeting: January 18, 2011

Location: Otay Water District Headquarters
Training Room, Lower Terrace
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd
Spring Valley, California 91978-2004

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:04pm J.L Phillips, presiding chair

Members Present: Brownlee, Fitchett, Hyatt, Manning, Mitrovich,
Myers, Phillips, Reith, Henderson
Wollitz arrived at 7:30pm

Absent: Forthun, Brennan, Feathers, Millar, Ripperger

2. FINALIZE AGENDA: No changes

3. OPEN FORUM: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of December 7, 2010
VOTE: 8-0-1 to approve Abstained:
Henderson

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. RS2249: Replaces the storm-drainage culvert crossing under Calavo Drive south of Louisa Drive in the near future. Calavo Drive may be closed to all traffic between Louisa Drive and Rancho Road for up to 17 days. Alternatives to road closure to be considered. [Fitchett, Phillips] [DPLU:Dion McMicheaux 858-694-2815]

Dion McMicheaux from Department of Public Works (DPW), Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was present to provide project details. The project is to replace an existing 60" pipe with a 10'x6' square box culvert. This particular culvert was selected for modification because the County of San Diego Flood Control Master Drainage Plan identified it as being inadequate to accommodate the 100 year design flood.

During the installation of the new culvert, Calavo Drive will be closed to all traffic between Louisa Drive and Rancho Road for approximately 14 days. Incentives will be offered to the contractor to try to reduce the road closure to 10 days. Rather than closing Calavo, they considered providing 1-way traffic during construction. This approach was rejected because staged construction is too expensive and the road is too narrow for staging and storage.

In response to PHILLIPS question regarding the need for replacing the existing culvert, McMicheaux indicated that based on the Hydrology and Stormwater Study, the metal culvert is undersized. In addition, some rust exists in the bottom of the culvert.

FITCHETT asked if there had ever been any flooding at this culvert and was told that he was not aware of any flooding. Additionally, McMicheaux mentioned that FITCHETT's idea of a partial fix, including vegetation removal and placement of rip-rap might help but would not meet the standards documented in the Hydrology manual. And since there is no easement, the responsibility for clearing vegetation is with the property owners.

McMicheaux added staged construction would be too expensive. The area is too wide to be spanned by a steel plate so 2 flaggers per 3 shifts would be needed 7/24 for as long as the staging is needed.

Kenton Jones of DPW Traffic said that how long the road will need to be closed, the volume of traffic affected and the true cost of the road closure were all key considerations before they approved the road closure.

PHILLIPS declared the road closure is the significant issue because the resulting detour forces residents to travel through the dangerous intersection of Madrid Way & Avocado Blvd. He added that this was all for the purpose of replacing a culvert per a study not due to any problems experienced.

Stephen Bickley [10648 Olvera] Madrid & Avocado is a misplanned intersection. Rather than use the Madrid & Avocado intersection, he usually detours to Louisa to get to Avocado. With the road closure, this detour option will not be

available. He added this is not just an inconvenience, people are concerned about safety and welfare by being forced to use specific roads and intersections.

BROWNLEE pointed out that a 2 mile detour exists that does not require residents to use the Madrid Way & Avocado Blvd intersection. PHILLIPS highlighted the issue of safety, as the route mentioned by Brownlee has its own set of traffic safety issues.

FITCHETT brought attention to the contractor's cost estimate for providing flaggers for staged construction. He believes the cost numbers are bloated (\$48/hour for flaggers and using 2 flaggers 7/24 for span of construction) and therefore should not be used to justify the need for a road closure.

FITCHETT presented his Motion to deny:

To recommend to the County that, the existing culvert not be replaced. The existing culvert should be improved with poured-in-place concrete wing walls and rip-rap placed in the downstream channel. The upstream channel should be cleared of overgrown vegetation and debris. All work should be performed without the necessity of closing Calavo Drive. Work should be performed during the dry season of July and Aug.

(MANNING seconds.)

Further discussion amongst the VDOCPG members resulted in FITCHETT modifying his Motion to deny the request. As follows:

To recommend to the County that, the existing culvert not be replaced. ~~The existing culvert should be improved with poured-in-place concrete wing walls and rip-rap placed in the downstream channel.~~ The upstream channel should be cleared of overgrown vegetation and debris. All work should be performed without the necessity of closing Calavo Drive. Work should be performed during the dry season of July and Aug.

(MANING accepted the modified Motion.)

VOTE 9-1-0 to deny the request. HENDERSON opposed.

6. LAND USE:

a. W11-001: Request for waiver of site plan review for new signage for new Panda Express restaurant at 12098 Fury Lane (corner of Fury & Jamacha Rd.) in Rancho San Diego. [Phillips] [Applicant: Buenrostro 858-569-1400 ext 4102]

PHILLIPS indicated the new signage includes both building and monument additions. The existing monument structure was constructed without review and does not meet the Rancho San Diego sign design requirements.

PHILLIPS motioned this waiver be approved except for the monument sign. REITH seconds. **VOTE 10-0-0 to approve the modified** waiver.

b. VAC10-002: This is a request by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) to vacate four open space easements totaling 48,537 acres located on three parcels adjacent to existing Wildlife Refuge land. The Service would like to include the land underlying these easements in the San Diego Wildlife Refuge, but the service cannot take fee title to any property that has encumbrances. Parcel numbers are: APN 517-060-17, 517-030-15 and 518-050-10. [Phillips] [DPLU: Monica Bilodeau 858-694-3085]

PHILLIPS reported that the Service and County want the specified parcels to be annexed into the existing Wildlife Refuge but cannot proceed because of the existence of open space easements. Approval of this request will vacate the encumbrances so that the Service can proceed with the annexation

PHILLIPS motion was to approve the request. WOLLITZ seconded. **VOTE 10-0-0 to approve** the request.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –

One item under consideration is the installation of two cell towers to be located at the top of Mt Helix on the property of the Mt Helix Park Foundation. The applicant and the foundation are in negotiations regarding the new tree and boulder camouflage.

The Chase Terrace project voted upon at the last VDOCPG meeting has been officially submitted. No changes were made to the project in response to our motion to deny the request. After discussions amongst the committee members, it was decided to re-visit this item as an Agenda Item again.

Next meeting will most likely be cancelled.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee [BROWNLEE, MYERS] presented the following candidates:

Chairman: Jack Phillips;

Co-Chairman: Don Fitchett

Secretary: Josan Feathers

There were no other candidates proposed from the floor.

Election Results: The vote was conducted on the slate of proposed officers. **VOTE: 10-0-0** to accept all candidates.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm